



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Headquarters, Landstuhl Dental Activity

CMR 402

APO AE 09180

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

MCDS-EUL

22 June 2004

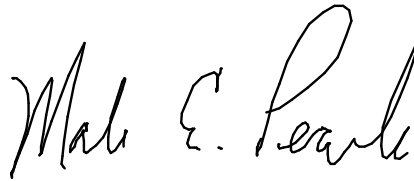
MEMORANDUM FOR All L-DENTAC Personnel

SUBJECT: Landstuhl Dental Activity (L-DENTAC) Policy Letter 04-04, Release Medical/Dental Records

1. It is a well-established legal principle that medical (to include dental) information is considered privileged and private in nature. Medical/Dental personnel are legally obligated to protect the confidentiality of such information. Except for specific circumstances (court orders, official requirements from Department of the Army or Department of Defense, etc.) the written and signed authorization of the patient is required before release of personal medical information IAW AR 40-66, AR 340-17, and AR 600-85.
2. Army guidance for compliance with the Privacy Act was published as AR340-21. With respect to the granting of access to records containing personal information, paragraph 3-2 of the regulation in part states that "no record" contained in the system of records maintained within the Department of the Army will be disclosed by any means of communication to any person or to any agency. The term "any person" includes spouses.
3. Therefore, departing soldier members requesting a copy of their spouse's records must have a signed authorization from the spouse, the spouse's military ID Card, along with a copy of their orders. Of course, parents may be granted access to copies of the records of their minor children.
4. An adult family member needs a copy of their sponsor's PCS orders in hand in order to pickup their own dental records. "An adult family member may request a copy of their dental record, to include radiographs at any time."
5. In instances where sponsors are going on an unaccompanied tour, and family members will be residing in areas that are not in close proximity to a military health facility, dental records will not be provided to family members until requested by another military dental care facility.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark E. Peacock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'M' and a prominent 'P'.

MARK E. PEACOCK
Colonel, DC
Commanding